



2018 Annual Report



**Hamilton County
Emergency Management**

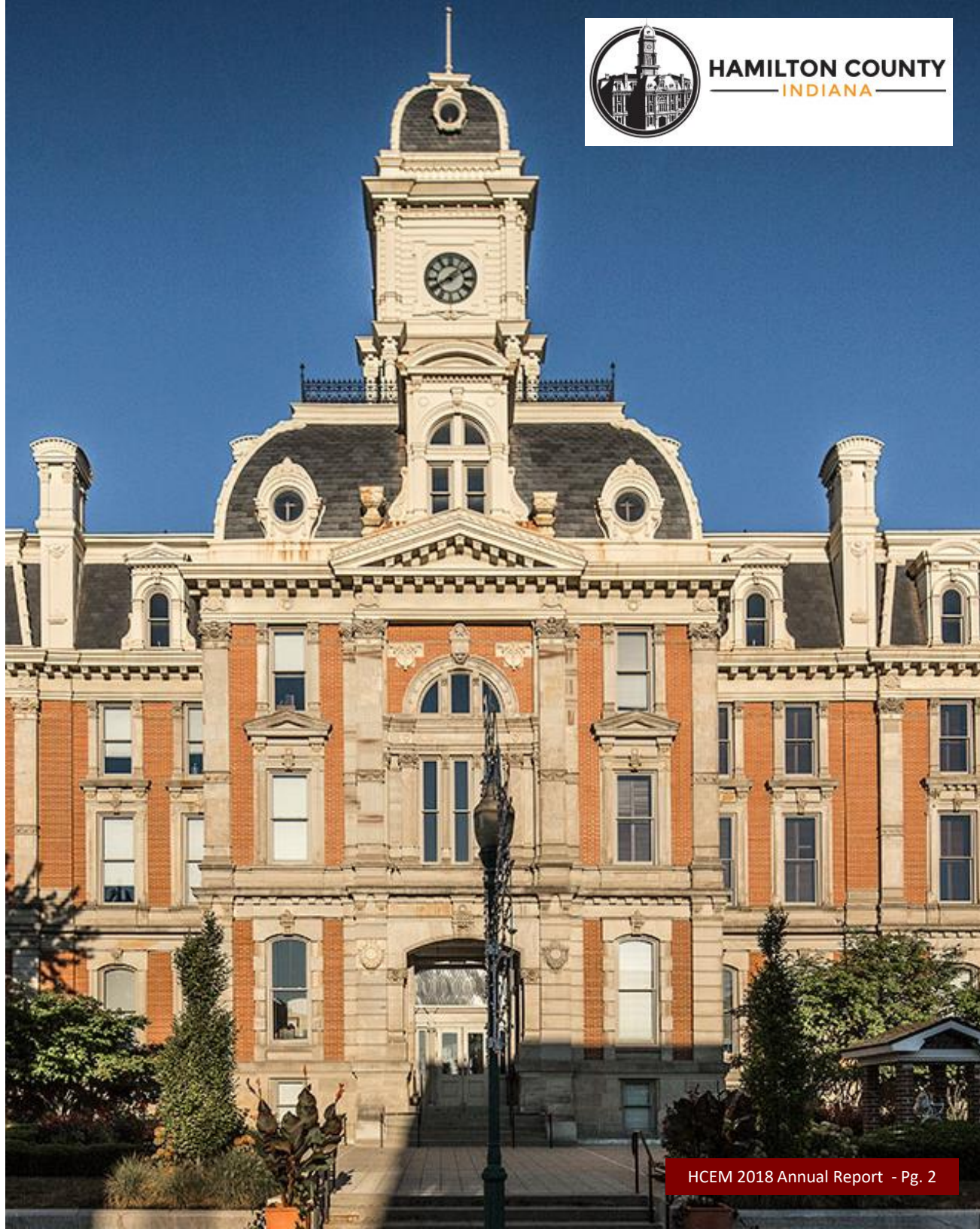


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HAMILTON COUNTY
INDIANA



A Year of Accomplishments



Shane Booker
Executive Director



Dear Residents, Employees, and Visitors of Hamilton County,

I joined Hamilton County Emergency Management in February of 2018, and this is my first opportunity to provide you with an annual report.

When I recently attended a Town Council Meeting in Atlanta, I introduced myself to them by sharing part of my story, and I would like to do the same with you.

I am proud to say that growing up in Hamilton County was a great experience. I grew up in Noblesville and graduated from Noblesville High School. My grandparents lived on a farm west of Arcadia, and I spent as much time there as I could. We would frequently stop in Cicero to pick up something from the drug store or, my favorite, stop at Dairy Queen. Our family attended church in Eagletown and at least twice a year; our congregation would spend a fun afternoon at the Biddle Memorial Park in Sheridan.

I share this with you because from the quaint towns to the vibrant cities, I know our county. It is an honor for me to serve Hamilton County as the Executive Director, and I plan to continue to do so for many years to come.

Your Emergency Management Team began 2018 by using structured brainstorming to determine our goals. We aligned them internally and externally and discovered we were very much in line with each other.

Despite being one of the smallest agencies in Hamilton County Government, we achieved those goals and much more.

We created a robust training program to ensure our stakeholders know more about emergency management.

We worked with schools to ensure each district has a dedicated emergency management liaison.

We assigned personnel to each of the fifteen emergency support functions for better coordination.

Our volunteer programs saw explosive growth with new resources to become a force multiplier for police, fire, and community support.

As part of the public safety community, we also responded to tragic events we hope never to encounter again.

As Hamilton County continues to grow and continue to be one of the best places to live, it is critical our emergency management program evolves to meet the growing needs of our community. We are happy to share our achievements with you and appreciate your time in learning more about Emergency Management in 2019.

Best Regards,
Shane Booker
Executive Director



Emergency Management Staff



Pam Eldridge
Administrative Assistant



Steve Haston
Coordinator



Max Michael
Part-time Coordinator



Matt Fearon
Part-time Planner



Jon Baldwin, CERT
Volunteer Coordinator



Joe March, RACES
Volunteer Coordinator

Who are we?

Hamilton County Ordinance and Indiana Code Title 10, Article 14 establishes and defines Hamilton County Emergency Management (HCEM) will help prepare, safeguard, protect the residents and property of Hamilton County from the effects of disasters through effective planning, preparation, response and recovery activities.

To accomplish this mission HCEM will:

- Develop, maintain and coordinate a comprehensive emergency management plan
- Respond to emergencies and disasters to support coordination and resource management
- Activate and staff the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to coordinate and support response efforts, and recover from disasters
- Develop and assist in the delivery of effective public outreach programs
- Train, educate, and prepare for emergencies through the development and delivery of effective classes, drills, and exercises
- Collect, provide, and disseminate information for elected officials, the media, our residents, partners, and other stakeholders

HCEM works with federal, state, local, public, and, private sector partners to ensure quick and effective recovery efforts to promote disaster preparedness and resilience, in the event of a large-scale emergency.



Emergency Management Functions

- ☐ **PREVENTION**
Actions taken to stop or avoid an incident
- ☐ **MITIGATION**
Measures to reduce the likelihood of occurrence or reduce the damaging effects of the hazard. These activities should be done prior to an incident
- ☐ **PREPAREDNESS**
Preparedness activities increase a community's ability to respond when a disaster occurs. Emergency response plans, evacuation plans, family communications plan, and assembling a family disaster kit are just a few examples of preparedness
- ☐ **RESPONSE**
Actions taken immediately before, during, and after a disaster to protect lives and property from damaging effects. For individuals, it is being able to act responsibly and safely to protect yourself and your family from the impacts of a disaster
- ☐ **RECOVERY**
Actions taken to return the community to normalcy. For catastrophic events, this may take years



Operations

The Operations Section is responsible for the timely analysis of natural, civil and technological hazards, intelligence sharing, and emergency response coordination. It also manages the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during disaster activations, managing all EOC operations during an incident.

HCEM personnel and volunteers monitor severe weather, industrial accidents, and other emergencies 24/7. The on-call staff member provides situational awareness during an incident and is available to assist with resource requests or function as an on-scene liaison if needed. In late 2018, School Messenger was implemented as a mass notification system to send a large number of email, phone calls, and texts simultaneously to our stakeholders.



HCEM provides support to our fellow public safety partners to provide resource support, coordination, and expertise in the following areas:

- Natural Disasters
- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Major Transportation Accidents
- Aviation Emergencies
- Energy Emergencies
- Radiological Accidents
- Bomb Threats
- Dam Failures
- Explosions
- Search and Rescue
- Utility Emergencies
- Water Rescue
- Evacuation/Sheltering
- Major Fires



Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is a multi-agency coordination central from which local governments can provide interagency coordination and executive decision making in support of incident response and recovery operations. The purpose of the EOC is to provide a centralized location where public safety, emergency response, and support agencies coordinate planning, preparedness, and response activities.

The EOC remains at a state of readiness with twenty-two support stations, two conference rooms, video conferencing and audio system, radio communications consoles with capabilities on all public safety frequencies, amateur radios, emergency alert system, and weather monitoring systems. There is also an alternate EOC in case the primary EOC is damaged or destroyed.

Logistics

Aside from providing resource support and management to the county during emergency operations, the Logistics Section develops and maintains all interoperable communications systems in the EOC for exercises, planned events, and emergency incidents.

The EOC Communication Center includes radio communications consoles with capabilities on all public safety frequencies, amateur radios, emergency alert system, and weather monitoring systems; to provide situational awareness before, during, and after a disaster.



HCEM Capabilities

HCEM is a county department and supports all municipalities and unincorporated areas of Hamilton County. Below is an overview of a few of our capabilities available for support in response to incidents and events. One of our newest capabilities is the HCEM Drone Program. HCEM has a massively successful UAS program by incorporating over 30 constituent agencies to share best practices and leverage shared resources, training, and hardware. There is huge potential for UAV's for emergency response and search and rescue. Aerial views are critically helpful during response incidents.



Emergency Operations Center



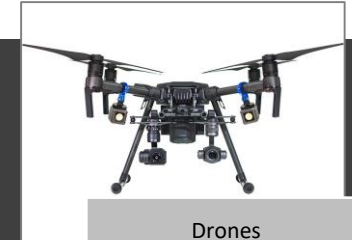
Mobile Command Center



Mobile Command/Support Trailer



800 MHz Radio Cache



Drones



HazMat Support



Shelter Tent System



A.M. Radio Transmitter



Light Towers/Generators



Industrial Generators



Power Distribution System



Telehandler



ATV Mule



Fuel Transport Trailer



Predesigned Shelters



CERT Volunteers (200+)



Volunteer Licensed Amateur Radio Operators

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their community and trains them in disaster response skills such as, fire suppression, medical operations, light search and rescue, and team organization.

The current Hamilton County CERT membership includes 215 trained volunteers to respond to community emergencies before first responders arrive. CERT volunteers donated 5,833 hours in 2018 to Hamilton County through training, exercising, and community outreach. The CERT membership continues to grow through a 9 ½ week basic course offered to Hamilton County residence twice per year.

Each year, HCEM creates opportunities for local residents to volunteer to help their communities prepare for and respond to emergencies. HCEM currently has a database of more than 253 volunteers contributing thousands of training and service hours.

Overall, last year, a contribution of 7,180 total volunteer hours was provided to Hamilton County. This time is valued at the national volunteer rate of \$25 per hour - a savings of \$179,513 to Hamilton County.



Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)

Founded in 1952, RACES is a public service provided by volunteer communication to provide emergency message handling on Amateur Radio Service frequencies. These operations typically involve messages between critical locations such as hospitals, emergency services, emergency shelters, and any other locations where communication is needed.

Hamilton County RACES has 25 members, who provided 1,258 service hours in communications, and storm spotting in 2018. During the annual Field Day using digital, voice, and Morse code modes, generators, batteries, and solar power, operators were able to test their skills in the event the electrical grid and traditional communication technologies are not accessible.



EOC Volunteers

In late 2018, the HCEM formed the EOC Volunteer Program. This program allows volunteers to receive quality training regarding EOC operations so they can help manage the Center due to the limited staffing of HCEM. Training includes management principals, best practices, and the use of systems and technology in the EOC. The membership has grown quickly to thirteen and provided 89 hours of service in just a few months.



Planning and Preparedness

Hamilton County is the fourth largest county in Indiana with a population estimated at 323,747. The county is at possible risk for flooding, tornadoes, high winds, severe winter storms, power outages, hazardous material releases, droughts/extreme heat, radiologic accidents, and terrorist attacks. A thorough assessment of the community's threats, hazards, and risks provide the basis for planning and implementing measures to reduce the negative consequences of a disaster or catastrophic event.

HCEM continuously analyzes and updates plans, annexes, appendices, and supporting documents that guide preparedness, mitigation, and response activities that can be applied to any disaster in the county. By doing this, it allows HCEM to receive Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding. This funding also develops tools to assist emergency managers and planners in formulating, developing, and writing emergency plans.

In 2018, HCEM hired Part-Time Planner, Matt Fearon, who reviewed, updated, or created several plans as well as produced six mapping products. Matt also serves as the EOC Planning Section Chief, and On-Call Coordinator on a rotating basis.

In 2019, we are hopeful Matt can become a full-time employee in 2020 to ensure HCEM can keep plans up to date and remain eligible for grant funding.

Plan Name	Update Status	Review Schedule
2016 CEMP	In process – Over Due	Biannually
CEMP Annexes	In process – Over due	Biannually
2018 Flood Fight Plan	Created in 2018	Annually
2018 Emergency Operations Plan	Updated in 2018	Annually
2014 Commodity Flow Study	Overdue	Every 5 years
2015 Mass Evacuation Plan	Overdue	Annually
2016 Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment	Reviewing	Annually
2019 Extreme Heat/Cold Plan	Create in 2019	Annually
2019 Access/Functional Needs Non-Emergency Medical Transport Plan	Create in 2019	Annually
2018 Hazardous Materials Response Plan (LEPC)	In process	Annually



Matt Fearon, Part-time Planner



Public-Private Partnerships

Public-Private Partnerships are unique because they allow the government to solve challenges with a team-centric approach. The private sector is already providing the bulk of daily services within a community. A partnership makes sense within both sectors to provide reliable delivery of services to the public. Examples of this within HCEM have established communication protocols, private sector representation within the EOC, devoted planning meetings, along with training, and exercising plans.

HCEM believes when all sectors work together, communities are better served and representatives of the public and private sector become active members of the same team. Allowing for the public and private sectors to collaborate for improved decision-making, increased access to resources and services, improved disaster and relief communications, and enhanced emergency management efforts, which can create resilient communities.



Hamilton County | Indiana



Communicate. Coordinate. Collaborate. Community.

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Safe
Schools
Meetings



Community Outreach

HCEM is responsible for planning, integrating, and implementing all emergency management related activities for the county. It also strives to provide the highest level of emergency preparedness for its residents.

Disaster and emergency planning is not the responsibility of one agency. Communities and businesses, along with families and individuals, need to plan and prepare to minimize the effects of a disaster. This can go a long way toward minimizing and surviving the effects of natural disasters or other incidents.

HCEM staff and volunteers work hard to educate the public on preparedness by attending numerous fairs, safety days, and group presentations throughout the year and giving group tours of the EOC. HCEM provides recyclable grocery totes full of preparedness information encouraging citizens to download the EMA app and gives away NOAA All Hazards Alert Radios for early warning to those in need.



Over 500

Preparedness
information bags
distributed to
county residents



**IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?**



72

Public Outreach
Events



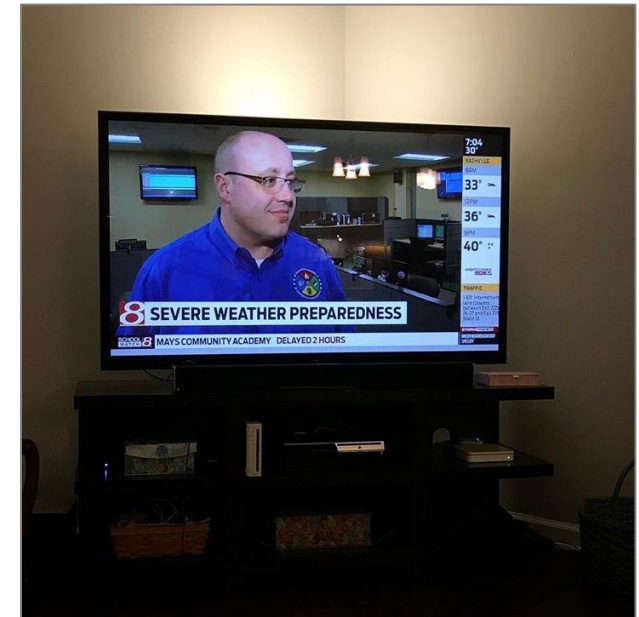
Media Relations

In 2018, HCEM interacted with the media through TV, print, and radio numerous times to help spread the word regarding county emergencies during flooding events, severe weather, storm siren activation, or to help get the public involved in important issues.

Consistent, accurate messages by HCEM representatives alleviate public anxiety and provide a level of credibility and response competency. The more information that is provided, the less the media will have room for interpretation.

Disasters have become media events. Through a variety of mediums, the 24-hour cycle of breaking news increases the awareness of natural and man-made disasters. HCEM works with county public information officers to be prepared to voice factual and timely information before falsehoods and negative public images spiral into rumors and publicity nightmares.

In 2018, Hamilton County Emergency Management started the Hamilton County Public Information Officers Working Group. The group consists of PIOs from police and fire departments, schools, transportation, Red Cross, and many others. The group meets every quarter to share experiences and information, strategies, and plans. The group also supports each other in the event of a major incident that crosses jurisdictional boundaries.



Equipment failure leads to internal jail investigation . . . Shooter, attorney accidentally overheard

The REPORTER
On May 26, the alleged perpetrator of the Noblesville West Middle School attack met with an attorney at the Hamilton County Juvenile Services Center. For the safety of the attorney as well as security of the facility, the Correction Officer, Stephen Kagan, working in the facility's Control Room, attempted to activate a camera in the visitation room but it did not initially operate. From her training, the officer knew that activating an intruder would also activate the camera for that specific incident in the room. Once the officer had the camera running and realized the conversation was audible, the officer immediately turned the volume down as low as the intruder consent allowed which prohibited the conversation from being overheard and understood. Staff members reported the incident through a supervisor in the chain of command. The Prosecutor's Office was immediately notified by Sheriff Mark Brown. No details or information beyond the fact that a jail officer overheard part of the conversation was shared with the Prosecution Attorney, and the Prosecutor immediately contacted counsel for the juvenile in order to advise them of the incident. Sheriff Brown then provided further information regarding the incident directly to the juvenile's counsel. By early June, no linear and Afghan investigation on the incident was completed. The investigation concluded there was nothing indicating the conversation was intended to be overheard or that any information was released outside the secure confines of the facility. The officer was retrained in the job responsibilities of the Control Room and in the confidentiality of visit. The officer also received a three-day suspension. No further information is available as the investigation into the incident is complete and the Noblesville West Middle School incident is in the hands of the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office.

Be ready when the worst happens

By STU CLAMPITT
ReadTheReporter.com
A Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a group of organized and trained volunteer disaster workers that operates at the neighborhood level. Free training from the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) can help you be prepared to help when the worst happens. When disaster strikes, CERT volunteers spring into action. They are trained to suppress small fires, conduct light search and rescue, and provide emergency medical aid and psychological comfort to their neighbors. In the post-disaster environment, CERT members assist in the community during the crisis. CERTs may also be called upon to help in other areas during the crisis. See CERT . . . Page 3

Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness announces campaign for re-election

The REPORTER
Republicans Scott Fadness, the first and current mayor of Fishers, announced Thursday his intention to seek re-election in 2019. Since taking office in 2015, Fadness has advanced the City of Fishers in economic development, quality of life, infrastructure and technology. "It's revealing to me what we've accomplished as a city," said Fadness. "Collaboration with business, neighborhood, community and neighborhood leaders has made Fishers strong. Being named the 'Best Place to Live in America' reflects the thoughtful planning and hard work we have undertaken. New economic development records have been set every year of Fadness' administration. Since 2015, more than 4,500 new jobs have been created and Fishers has attracted \$1.9 billion in new private investment. Since taking office, Fadness has stated his vision to make Fishers a smart, vibrant and entrepreneurial city. Through the establishment of Launch Fishers and the IoT Lab, Fadness has helped Fishers stand apart from other communities as a hub for development and innovation. "As long as we have the courage, wisdom and entrepreneurial spirit to take what is happening globally - and what is at stake - we will continue to be a strong community. When we approach challenges with innovation, we succeed," said Fadness. Fadness' vision for Fishers includes making it a city where residents can live, work and play in the same community. Efforts to revitalize downtown, increase businesses and expand quality of life initiatives have contributed to Fishers' growing success. One of Fadness' highest priorities has been the development and execution of a city council initiative pursuing Carmel Clay Schools Public Safety Forum. See Mayor Fadness . . . Page 2

Carmel Clay Schools Public Safety Forum

Among the most prevalent topics discussed by the Hamilton County Business Council...

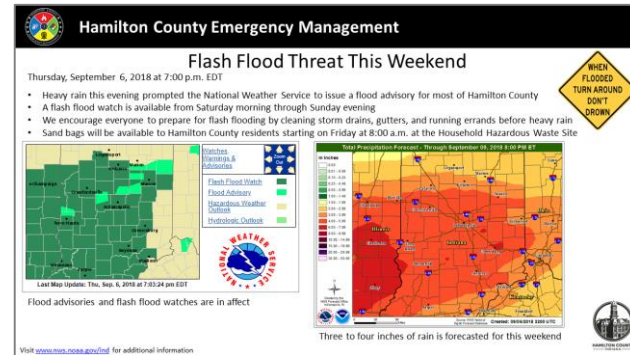
Social Media

Social media has become a critical component of emergency response, and recovery. HCEM uses social media as a collaborative tool to provide clear, accurate, and timely information to the public before, during, or in the aftermath of an incident.

Information sharing between public safety organizations and communities is critical in emergencies to save lives, especially during large-scale events such as floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes.

In 2018, HCEM Facebook followers increased by 81%, and Twitter gained 518 new followers. The increase can be credited to the use of infographics and quick informative videos. The videos showed weather and road conditions in different locations within the county, or activities HCEM was participating in throughout the county. The response was huge, and nothing but positive.

HCEM began using NextDoor as a social networking method to connect at a local level with neighborhood households. In 2018, HCEM reached over 104,000 members within 614 neighborhoods throughout Hamilton County.



Training and Exercise

HCEM participates, promotes, and provides numerous training opportunities for its partners. Courses include National Incident Management System (NIMS) training, continuity of operations, communications, incident command, and situational awareness courses.

In 2018, the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Functional Exercise immersed ten county departments demonstrating their continuity of operation plans to ensure that continued performance of essential functions will continue during an emergency shut down of government offices. The exercise scenario involved a transportation accident which caused the shut down of the county's Judicial Center.

The LEPC is required to review and test the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan annually. LEPC complies with Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), which is a federal law that mandates Emergency Planning and Community-Right-to-Know (EPCRA) requirements, and administered by the Indiana Emergency Response Commission (IERC). The LEPC membership is voluntary and includes representation of elected officials, police, fire, emergency management, health, environment, transportation, hospitals, community groups, media, and industry.

The IERC presented the LEPC with seven awards in 2018 for their efforts in plan development, exercise development, and community and membership outreach.

56 Training Classes



Budget and Finance

The Hamilton County Emergency Management (HCEM) Executive Director is responsible for the development and submission of an annual budget to the members of the Hamilton County Council. In 2018, the HCEM budget was \$326,381.00, an increase of 9.5% from 2017. Total expenditures in 2018 was \$320,409.82. The HCEM budget is .0965% of the county's general fund.

The budget sustains the department's inventory of disaster resources and helps to coordinate those resources during an emergency. The budget also supports the following:

1. Salaries for four full-time staff members, and two part-time staff members – FEMA pays for ½ of the salary of three full-time employees
2. Staff member's personal protective equipment, including communication equipment necessary to respond to or support incidents
3. Supports HCEM volunteer programs
4. Continued growth and needs for the county's emergency management program.

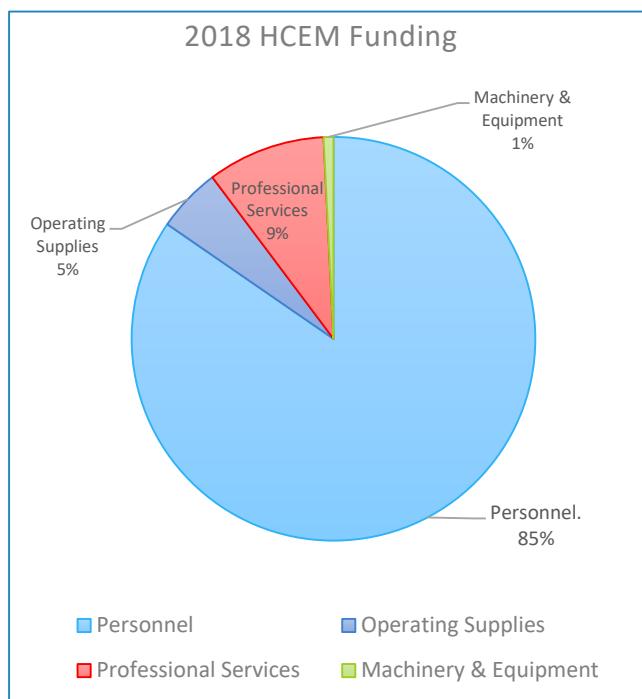


FEMA

Federal grant funding through the Emergency Management Performance Grant pays half of the salaries for three of the four full-time employees.

Budget

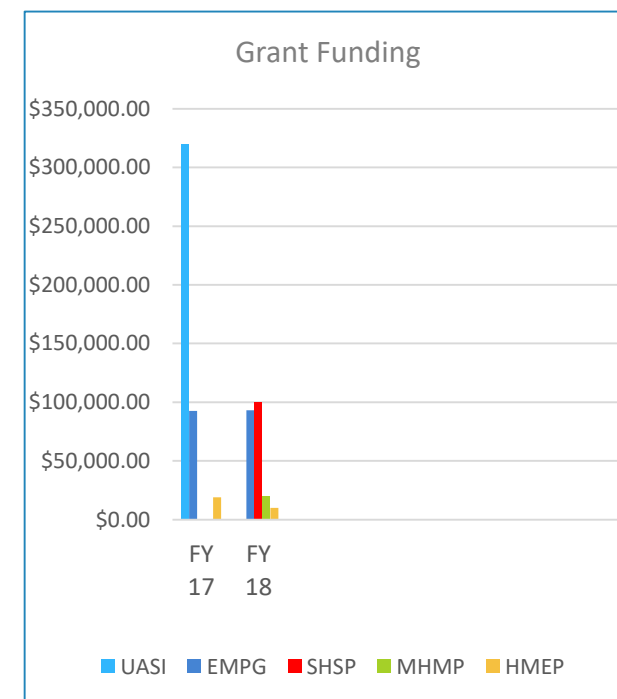
In 2018, HCEM completed a three-year budget analysis, which discovered a funding gap in the areas of operating supplies and professional development. Also, an oversight was recognized where previous administration hired new personnel, but no additional requests were made for salary shortages, equipment, or training. This has been a huge obstacle in 2019. HCEM will continue to work with the County Council to correct this issue in 2020.



Grants

HCEM manages on behalf of the county federal and state non-disaster grants. HCEM is dependent on funding from these grants for its planning, training, exercise, mitigation, response, and recovery activities.

HCEM has seen a reduction in homeland security grant funding from the federal government over the past two years. This trend is expected to continue. The reality is that more funding is critical to future emergency management activities.



Thank you for supporting the Hamilton County Emergency Management Program

Please take a few seconds to complete our community
emergency preparedness survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LGXGR2W>

